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## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

## Sens. Dirksen, Church Head Lobby

By Drew Pearson

There's an interesting case of flouting the law right under the noses of the U.S. Senate that Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, top man in the Republican Party, and Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, an important member of the Democratic Party, are ignoring.



It's the law, Pearson, which requires lobbyists and lobbying organizations to register with Congress. The company which is ignoring the law with the apparent blessing of the two Senators is the famous public relations firm of Whitaker and Baxter, which has handled some big lobbying campaigns in California and is now engaged in trying to reverse the Supreme Court's decision for the one-man-one-vote reapportionment of state legislatures.

To reverse the Supreme Court by passing a constitutional amendment, Whitaker and Baxter have organized the high-sounding "Committee for Government of the People," have been holding fund-raising dinners, and deluging people with literature blasting the Supreme Court's decision.

Dirksen is chairman of the committee, Sen. Church co-chairman. Dirksen was in Congress when the lobbying law

requiring registration was passed, so should know the law. Church, elected as the "baby Senator," was not. However, he can read.

## Gentle Reminders

Even if Church can't read the law, three of his colleagues on the Senate floor have reminded both him and Dirksen that the law requires all lobbying organizations to register. Nevertheless, Church ignores the law.

When Sens. Joseph Tydings (D-Md.) and William Proxmire (D-Wis.) reminded Dirksen and Church on March 7 of the failure of the committee of which they are chairmen to register, the senior Senator from Illinois replied:

"I listened with a great deal of interest to the dialogue between my very distinguished friend, the distinguished Senator from the great Badger State of Wisconsin and the very distinguished lawyer from the great Free State of Maryland. The dialogue was not quite up to the level of Plato, but it was interesting notwithstanding."

But he did not register his committee, nor did Whitaker and Baxter register their far-flung activities to give rural areas a preponderant vote over the cities in state legislatures.

Reason why Proxmire and Tydings—plus Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.) have been persistent about this is the reason

stated in the lobbying law—namely the right of the public to know who is paying for lobbying.

If large corporations and utilities are paying for the Whitaker and Baxter campaign, as widely reported, then the Senators who are being pressured to vote on the Dirksen constitutional amendment Wednesday (April 20) have a right to know who is paying for the pressure.

## Campaign Strategy

Two able young freshmen Congressmen, Reps. James H. Scheuer (D-N.Y.) and Richard D. (Max) McCarthy (D-N.Y.) were discussing possible reelection problems in this year's campaign.

Scheuer, who is Jewish, told McCarthy, who is Irish Catholic:

"I have done my best, but I am not sure that the Jews, for example, in my Bronx district are completely satisfied with my efforts. I get some letters from Jewish constituents that are pretty critical."

"Jim, I have the same feeling sometimes about the Irish voters in my Buffalo district," McCarthy reflected. "My votes don't always satisfy them. It's impossible to make everyone happy, of course."

"Look, Jim," said McCarthy, "you get along fine with the Irish and I get along fine with Jewish voters. Maybe we ought to exchange visits and make campaign speeches for each

other before the election."

"Sounds like a great idea," said Scheuer. "Let's try to arrange it."

## Lloyd Lafontaine

Lloyd Lafontaine, now being checked out by the FBI to be U.S. Attorney for Maine, has denied that he was a member of the McCarthyite cabal which tried to defeat Sen. Margaret Chase Smith in 1954. At that time, Sen. Joe McCarthy induced his friend Robert L. Jones of Biddeford, former assistant to Sen. Owen Brewster, to run for the Senate in the Republican primary against Mrs. Smith. His campaign manager was Lloyd Stover.

At that time, Lafontaine was a student at the Georgetown University Law School and met in Stover's apartment every Monday evening to discuss campaign strategy against Sen. Smith.

Lafontaine now states that he is a Democrat but at the time of the attempt to purge Mrs. Smith in 1954 he stated that his mother was secretary of the Republican Committee in Biddeford.

Mrs. Smith had aroused McCarthy's ire because she was the one Senator who had the courage to circulate the "declaration of conscience" aimed at McCarthy after he made his first charges of "205 card-carrying Communists" in the State Department. The charges were never substantiated.

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